Memoranda

Santa Barbara I.
Channel Is. + San Miguel
California

RS Crossin

Santa Barbara I, Calif

11 May 68

arrive 1030.

Vern Applen + crew of 3 here to fix up old Granat hut. He says many Western Gulls have 3 eggs as far as 10 days back.

Many Western Meadowlarks singing.

Most vegetation quite brown + dried up. on ~~South~~ east slope, green on W slope.

1 McGillivrays warbler

Meadowlarks + 1 Horned Larks common.

1 Sparrow Hawk — nest Gulls constantly diving at it about the cliff.

11 May

Western Gull nest survey
NW end of island

Empty nests ||||-|||-|||
1 egg ||||
2 eggs |||-|||
3 eggs |||-|||-|||-|||-||||

Estimated 2000 birds, scattered over ~~North~~ West slope.

ca. 500 cormorants on NW finger by large offshore rock. No eggs, many nests unreachable without a rope. Large ~~nb~~ low height caves on this side

1 burrowing owl, 1 rabbit.

Calif. Sea Lions
14 3 darks, 11 light
98 mostly light ♀'s on NE end.

8 Brown Pelicans W side
3 Pileolated Warblers.
3 Russet-backed? Thrushes.

Western Gulls. SE Corner
200 - 250 birds here.

Nests

empty — 1111
1 egg — 1
2 eggs — 11
3 eggs — 1111

Mourning Doves	4	
Horned Lark young on wing		
Empidonax sp.	3	
Western Tanager	1	♀
Myiarchus sp.	1	
Black Phoebe	1	
~~Parula~~ Warbler	1	ad ♂ collected
Black-headed Grosbeak	1	ad ♀
Wood Pewee	1	ad.

Depart Island 0700 12 May

wind at least up to 40-45 knots throughout night. Impossible to work about cliffs — moon full - light as daylight - couldn't get any closer than 100 yds to West. Gulls. No hydrotela

Anacapa Is.

12 May 1968

Land ? 1700. just a few yds W and below lighthouse. Doesn't look good for getting on top from here, but there is no other place. Could not land on N side as usual because of heavy seas along the entire N front.

Spent a miserable night along the cliff in the small cove. Waves at high tide leave abt 3-4 ft of dry area. Considerable trouble leaving in the morning because of surf. Could not climb the cliffs to the top without

taking considerable chances.
Leave 0800 13 May.

Anacapa IS. 12 May

1 wandering E Island.
1 Sparrow Hawk.
2 Black Oystercatcher
1 Br. Pelican
20 West Gulls.

13 May

In a run E along the
N side of Island Center to.
16 oystercatchers, all
in pairs or small
groups. 2 nests
w 2 eggs each, one
set incubated = full-
nests above high tide
line, a shallow lining
of pebbles.
Another nest w 2 eggs
Another with 1 egg.
all nests high on rocks
6-15 ft above high
tide line, nests of pebbles.

13 May

Anacapa Island.

1000 depart ships in attempt to land at passage between large west island and center.

Land on beach 1115, no problems.

colonies of cormorants on N side at passage between W and center islands and at west end of west island.

Camp at E cove on N side of west island tried to climb the hill to go across west island, but this presents more chance-taking along diff edges than any results would justify.

Spotted Sandpiper 1
Wandering Tattler 12+
Brown Pelican 40+
Western gulls are
scattered about the
hillsides nearly thinly.
Probably nesting, but
no concentrations.

Ca. 40 Surf Scoter Ducks sitting
offshore.

ad ♂ Sparrow Hawk came
up, eating a small passer-
ine bird; casually
plucking it as he sat
upon a rock.

Two Bl. Oyster catchers
along N shore of W island

~~Coots~~
13 May

Small islet off center is:
N side 9 W Gull nests.
6 w/ 3 eggs
1 w 2 eggs
1 w 1 egg
1 new nest

two other nests on shore each w 3 eggs
1/4 incubated

Center Island 13 May.
1 Barn Swallow
1 Rough-winged Swallow
1 Mourning Dove.

Cormorants do not seem to be nesting yet. These are abundant in certain areas on offshore rocks, but no nests.
Likewise no nests of Br. Pelicans

13 May Anacapa

Cove on E end of W island N side very favorable for landing raft - broad gravel beach - very little surf. N side of Center island has many interesting caves, some large enough to take the rubber ins. But no signs of Storm petrels nesting anywhere within caves.

Vegetation on both Center and West island is much more luxuriant than on Santa Barbara. Fine grove of trees sp? on West island and a tiny grove on Center D. sp?

West Is,
Anacapa Is
14 May

Depart cove on N side of E & S Is to ship on south side of center Is. Arrive ship 0735.

Several Rough-winged Swallows were noted going in and out of caves along the N side of West Island upon return - nesting?

Rained all the way back to ships. Cormorants definitely not nesting on the west end of West Island. but about 100 plus 15-20 Brown Pelicans roosting there. these possibly nest later on. the W. Gulls are scattered (or spaced) all over the hillside, with no real concentration

Castle Rock, San Miguel Is. Calif

14 May 68

Land 1700 - very rough seas coming in. No place to put raft - had to go back to ship and pick up some sailors to bring us to the rock & take the rubber back.

Atleast 3000 cormorants in combination of Pelagic & Brandt's?. nesting begun, several nests w/1 egg. after checking large numbers from above, about 90% are Brandt's, 10% Pelagic

Castle rock 14 May

Western Gull nests

Empty HH

1 egg II

2 eggs III

3 eggs HH III

Cormorant nests

practically all empty

ca. 5 % w 1 egg

ca. 1 % w 2 eggs

1 nest w/ 1 egg, 1 newly hatched young

nests built in small to large groupings over entire island. Nests of sea weed + other island plants.

two eggs are apparently full clutch.?

14 May Castle Rock

a. 500 Western Gulls. these cools scarf up everything. As soon as cormorants are flushed from the nests, the gulls swoop down and eat the eggs right now — swallowing them whole.

Gull nests mainly in the vegetated part of the island around two hill sides.

14 May Castle Rock.

Bl. Oystercatchers. At least
12 pair - apparently nesting,
but was unable to
find any nests;

At least 4 immature
Heermann's Gulls.

Ca. 20-30 Brown Pelicans,
but no nesting as yet.
This species may breed on
an off shore island on NW
end of Castle Rock. Many
Cormorants and most
of the pelicans noted were
here.

Castle Rock 1st May

Cassin's Auklet.
one burrow in sand between
boulders w/ parent + newly
hatched grey chicks., another
burrow next door with
parent + fairly fresh egg.
Burrows scattered all
through rocks amidst
cormorant nests. burrows
about 2 - 3 ft deep.

2 other nests dug out with only
1/2 - 3/4 grown chicks. no parents.

4 fresh eggs found + 3 other 3/4
grown chicks. Many pairs
just sitting in empty burrows
or digging yet.
Est. pop. 5000 birds
practically all on N (sea) side

Castle Rock 14 May

Found one Pigeon Guillemot nest, one egg only and the parent could not be reached. In the morning, however, 20+ were noted flying about the island. The total population is probably about 100 - 150.

nesting bird was on the N (sea) side in a crevice between boulders.

Found one Xantus' Murelet in a shallow burrow-crevice on E side of island about 3/4 way up the hill. Bird had brood patches, but there was no evidence of nest mate & egg when it was sitting.

Castle Rock 14 May

Ashy Petrel

Birds came in shortly after full dark. Flight calls were given, but if burrow calls were voiced, it was impossible to hear over the din of crashing waves on the W side + a myriad of calling cassins auklets.

Brood patches just starting or present on the 6 we captured. Ones taken from shallow crevices showed no indications of having eggs yet.

Probably population of 500+.

Flight call similar to Blacks, but much weaker.

Castle Rock 15 May

Depart at 0800

Blood Samples Castle Rock

1 — Brant Cormorant

2 — Cassin Auklet 3

3 — " " 7

4 — " " 5

5 — " " 6

6 — " " -2

7 — " " -1

8 —

9 —

10 —

11 —

12 —

13 —

14 —

15

16 —

17 —

18 —

19 —

20 —

CASSIN AUKLET

eye color - INNER RING white

LARGE outer RING pale yellow

7530-222-0078

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